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to be nearly identical in specimens of notably different composition. In general the extinction angle seems to decrease with increasing iron, but the author points out that the composition may vary in a complex way and no very sure conclusions can be drawn.

A. D. B.

Ninth Report of the Director of the Science Division. By JOHN M. CLARKE. New York State Museum Bull. 164. 1913. Pp. 241, pls. 46.

This publication includes the 66th Report of the State Museum, the 32d Report of the State Geologist, and the Report of the State Paleontologist for 1912. Although unaccompanied by descriptions, there are 36 plates illustrating the Devonian fossils of Brazil and of the Falkland Islands. A full description of the fauna is to be published by the director of the Geological Service of Brazil.

The object in printing these plates is to show the distinctive characters of the southern Devonian fauna. Although fundamentally related, it is apparent that the genera of the northern and southern American habitats developed in separate basins with restricted communication. From the fossils there is indication of a continuous strand line from South America through the Falkland Islands to South Africa.

T. T. Q.

Stratigraphy and Paleontology of the Alexandrian Series in Illinois and Missouri. Part I. By T. E. SAVAGE. Extract from Bull. 23, Illinois State Geol. Survey. 1913. Pp. 124, pls. 7.

This part of the subject treats only the Girardeau and Edgewood limestones. Part II on the Essex and the Sexton limestones is in preparation. The report discusses the stratigraphic and paleontological relations of the series. A large part is a description of the fossils.

Alexandrian series is the name proposed for the early Silurian strata of Illinois and eastern Missouri which occupy a position above the top of the generally accepted Richmond and below the Brassfield (Ohio Clinton) limestone. The series consists of a number of closely related formations; these record a succession of oscillatory northward sea advances separated by breaks in sedimentation due to temporary withdrawals of the sea. The Girardeau was the earliest and the least extensive invasion; the cycle closed with the most widespread, the Sexton Creek submergence.

T. T. Q.